STATE AND FEDERAL BENEFITS AND RESOURCE FACT SHEET FOR UTAH VETERANS





A Brief Fact Sheet Compiled by

The Utah Department of Veterans and Military Affairs

February 2015

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UTAH DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AND MILITARY AFFAIRS (UDVMA)

"We are the Department in the government of the State of Utah that assists former and present members of the U.S. Armed Forces and their dependents in numerous capacities. This includes the preparing of claims for and securing compensation, hospitalization, education, vocational training, and other benefits or privileges which Veterans and our current armed forces may be entitled to under Federal or State Law, or regulation, by reason of their military service."

Serving Utah's 170,000 Veterans

The Department offers a variety of services to assist Veterans in obtaining the benefits they may have earned through their military service. The UDVMA provides counseling and assistance to Veterans and their dependents with VA claims processing, establishing Veterans' rights to state and federal benefits, and providing information and advisory services.

This publication, State and Federal Benefits for Utah Veterans is published by the:

Utah Department of Veterans and Military Affairs

550 Foothill Drive, Suite 105

Salt Lake City, Utah 84113

Phone: (801) 326–2372

Toll Free: (800) 894–9497

Fax: (801) 326–2369

E-mail: veterans@veterans.utah.gov

Website: www.veterans.utah.gov

OUTREACH PROGRAM

Our Outreach Program is designed to advise and educate Veterans on all of the benefits and programs that have been put in place to assist them by many federal and state agencies. The Outreach Program consists of two components — Community Outreach and Special Events Outreach.

Community Outreach consists of Veteran Service Officers (VSOs) and Outreach representatives meeting with Veterans at predetermined locations throughout the state for unscheduled assistance. These are usually held at Department of Workforce Services (DWS) offices.

Special Events Outreach consists of attending various events and venues where Veterans can receive general information regarding benefits and programs of interest to them, and have the opportunity to set up appointments for further assistance.

Discharge Data

The UDVMA maintains a storage database of Discharge documents, including DD-214 forms and Notice of Separation forms, for Veterans whose state home of record was Utah. The majority of these documents are from service dates after 1980.

The Department has a collection of discharge documents that were turned over to it by the various county courthouses within the state. These documents were assembled from documents registered at those county courthouses by the Veteran at some point following their discharge from service.

The Utah National Guard Headquarters in Draper, Utah, maintains file copies of National Guard Bureau record of separation certificates (NGB 22 forms) for completed service in the Utah Army National Guard and the Utah Air National Guard (1950-present). Certified copies of DD-214 documents are provided free of charge to Veterans who have a valid photo ID when picking up their requested document.

STATE APPROVING AGENCY FOR VETERANS EDUCATION (SAA)

Education and / or vocational training for our Veterans are a key element in helping them achieve success after their military service. The State Approving Agency performs all duties necessary for the inspection, approval, supervision, and compliance of programs offered by qualified educational institutions or training establishments in order for Veterans to use their VA education benefits.

UTAH STATE VETERANS CEMETERY AND MEMORIAL PARK

The Utah State Veterans Cemetery follows the eligibility requirements of the VA National Cemetery System. Any U.S. Armed Forces active personnel who die while performing duty or after having served during wartime are eligible for burial. Reservist and National Guard retired personnel with 20 years of service are also eligible, as are surviving spouses and dependent children (under rules established by the State of Utah; Utah Code 71-7-3)

Utah Veterans Cemetery and Memorial Park 17111 South Camp Williams Road Bluffdale, Utah 84065 Phone: (801) 254-9036

UTAH STATE VETERANS HOMES

Quality nursing and health care services are provided for Utah Veterans with U.S. military service during peacetime or wartime. While wartime service is not a requirement for admission to the homes, wartime Veterans with one day or more of wartime service, as recognized by state and federal laws, do have a priority. A Veteran's spouse or surviving spouse may also qualify for admission to the Utah State Veterans Homes, providing the marriage to the Veteran occurred at least one year before the application. There are currently four (4) Veterans homes located in Utah for eligible Veterans, spouses, and Gold Star parents.

These Veterans homes focus on improving the quality of life of the residents by providing skilled-nursing care and many activities designed to enrich the lives of the residents. The current locations are:

William E. Christoffersen Salt Lake Veterans Home

700 Foothill Drive Salt Lake City, UT 84113-1104 Phone: (801) 584-1900 (81 beds)

George E. Wahlen Ogden Veterans Home

1102 North 1200 West Ogden, UT 84404 Phone: (801) 334-4300 (120 beds)

Central Utah Veterans Home — Payson

1551 North Main Street Payson, UT 84651 Phone: (801) 465-5400 (108 beds)

Southern Utah Veterans Home — Ivins

160 North 200 East Ivins, UT 84738 Phone: (435) 634-5220 (108 beds)

STATE BENEFITS AND SERVICES

DISABLED VETERAN PROPERTY TAX ABATEMENT

A Utah permanent place-of-residence property tax abatement using the military service-connected disability rating percentage is available for disabled Veterans or for their un-remarried widows or minor orphans. The Veteran's disability rating must be at least 10% in order to qualify for this abatement.

Here is the formula:

- The maximum property tax abatement, rated at 100% military service-connected disability, is \$244,064
- Multiply your percentage of disability by 244,064
- Example: a 10% disability X 244,064 = \$24,406.40 tax abatement
- This amount is then subtracted from the taxable value of the property and taxes are paid on the remaining amount.

To apply for Utah Disabled Veterans Property Tax Abatement, request a Summary of Benefits Letter from U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). Submit the letter with a completed Property Tax Abatement application, on or before 01 SEP, to the applicable county treasurer, tax assessor, or clerk / recorder located in the county courthouse or county government building of the county in which the property is located. All property must be on record as of 01 JAN of the year you wish to file. However, a recent change allows qualified widows and orphans an exemption to that rule.

Disabled Veterans only have to file for the abatement one time; after which it will automatically renew each year. However, Veterans will have to re-file if all or a portion of their abatement is used towards tangible personal property, if their service-connected disability percentage changes, the Veteran dies, sells the property, or no longer claims that property as the primary place of residence. (Utah Code 59-2-1104 & 1105)

ARMED FORCES PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION

The state provides a property tax exemption for members of active or reserve components of the US Armed Forces who perform qualifying active duty military service. For the purposes of this tax exemption "Qualifying Active Duty Service" is defined as at least 200 days in a calendar year (and must be out of state activation), regardless of whether performed consecutively, or 200

consecutive days of active service that may cross into a second calendar year but has not been applied toward the count for the previous year's taxes. The amount of the tax exemption is equal to the total taxable value of the claimant's property. This tax exemption can be claimed up to a year following the year the service was completed. The exemption may not be claimed by the military person's spouse, and the military person may not claim the exemption for property owned exclusively by the military person's spouse. (Utah code 59-2-1104 & 1105)

PURPLE HEART TUITION WAIVER

Utah public institutions of higher learning are required to waive the tuition of a Utah resident admitted to an undergraduate or graduate program of study leading to a degree, or a vocational training that leads to a certificate, if the student is a recipient of a Purple Heart. (Utah Code 53B-8-101)

IN-STATE TUITION RATES

Armed Forces personnel pay in-state tuition rates by having or establishing residency. (Utah Code 53B-8 -102 (8) (d) (i-iii)

SCOTT B. LUNDELL TUITION WAIVER FOR MILITARY MEMBERS' SURVIVING DEPENDENTS

This benefit waives the undergraduate tuition at state institutions of higher education for surviving dependents of Utah resident military members killed in the line of duty after 9/11/2001. The waiver does not apply to fees, books, or housing expenses. The Utah Department of Veterans and Military Affairs is the administering agency for this benefit. For more info contact our office at (801) 326-2372 or (800) 894-9497. (Utah Code 53B-8-107)

HONORARY HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMAS

Veterans from WWII, Korea, and Vietnam who left high school for military service during those conflicts may be eligible to receive Honorary High School Diplomas from the particular school that they left. Contact the local school district for

information on how to receive the diploma. (Utah Code 53A-3-426)

VETERANS UPWARD BOUND (VUB)

Veterans Upward Bound is funded by the Department of Education and sponsored by Weber State University. VUB provides a valuable service by assisting Veterans in obtaining admission to post-secondary schools. Instruction and tutoring are provided free of charge to Veterans in Mathematics, English, and basic computer applications. The services are provided to Veterans in Salt Lake, Davis, and Weber Counties. For more information, contact (801) 626-7173.

PURPLE HEART FEE EXEMPTION

Effective 30 APR 2007, a recipient of the Purple Heart with a Purple Heart license plate, is exempt from paying the fees related to motor vehicle license and registration. This does not exempt one from the property taxes or age-based fees which are still applicable. (Utah Code 41-1a-1211)

VETERANS LICENSE PLATES

Utah Veterans license plates may be purchased from any DMV for an initial \$25.00 contribution to the Utah State Department of Veterans and Military Affairs, plus a \$10.00 plate transfer fee, and the normal vehicle registration and property tax fees. There will also be a yearly \$10.00 renewal fee. The proceeds from the sale and renewal of these plates assist in the funding of Veterans programs within the state. Utah Veterans license plates display colored decal emblems of the U.S. military branch in which served (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, and Coast Guard, as well as the American Legion), and are further inscribed "UTAH HONORS VETERANS."

Utah special group license plates for Purple Heart recipients, Pearl Harbor survivors or, former POWs are exempt from application and renewal fees; however, regular registration fees and property taxes must still be paid. Proper evidence to present for a special group plate includes a Military Order of the

Purple Heart or Pearl Harbor Survivors Association membership card, or DD-214/Military Discharge certificate. A "Disabled Veteran" plate is also available for Veterans with a service-connected disability. This plate has a one-time \$15 fee and no additional renewal fees. Military documentation or a VA Summary of Benefits letter must be presented to prove eligibility for this plate. **NB**: This Plate does not qualify for disabled parking privileges. (Utah Code 41-1a-418 thru 422)

DISABLED LICENSE PLATES / WINDSHIELD PLACARDS

Disabled license plates having the blue and white international symbol of accessibility decal may be obtained by submitting a TC 842 application form, accompanied by a certification from a licensed physician stating: (1) the disability limits or impairs one's ability to walk as defined in the 1991 *Federal Uniform System for Handicapped Parking*, and (2) the time period the physician determines the disability will continue.

Disabled Veterans applying for Utah disability license plates should note that Veteran disability letters from the VA Regional Office are not acceptable evidence to Tax Commission / Motor However, licensed physician Vehicle offices. certifications by VA doctors are acceptable evidence, provided they provide the same information as stated above. Normal fees for plate transfer, registration, and property taxes still must be paid upon initial application and renewal of disability license plates. Upon request, one additional disability windshield placard may be issued to disabled persons applying for or already possessing disability special group license plates. For more information, call the Division of Motor Vehicles toll-free at (800) DMV-UTAH [368-8824] (Utah Code 41-1a-420)

DRIVER LICENSE PRIVILEGES

Driver licenses possessed by persons on U.S. military active duty shall be valid 90 days after

active duty discharge, unless the driver's license is suspended or revoked for cause by a police department or other judicial entity. (Utah Code 53-3 -205)

VETERAN STATUS ON UTAH DRIVER LICENSE AND UTAH ID CARDS

Veterans can now have "VETERAN" printed on their state issued driver licenses or state ID cards. In order to have this accomplished, go to any state Driver License or ID office and indicate on the application for these cards that you are a Veteran. You must have served on active duty and have an Honorable Discharge. Veterans must provide a DD-214 or a Report of Separation to have their status verified. All renewal fees are still applicable. (Utah Code 53-3-804)

VETERANS JOB PREFERENCE

Eligible Veterans, spouses, or un-remarried widows / widowers are granted either 5 or 10 points, as applicable, for employment preference. These points are added to the results of any written and / or oral exam or other related qualifying technique or examinations by any Utah government entity (state, county, municipality, special district or other political subdivision or administration). The U.S. Department. of Labor protects the Veteran's right to Veterans Job Preference. (Utah Code 71-10-2)

VETERANS HIRING PRIORITY

Any officers, agents or representatives of the state, or any contractor performing work for the Utah state government, who willfully fails to hire a military Veteran shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. (Utah Code 71-10-3)

VETERANS JOB REPRESENTATIVES

Local Veterans Employment Representative (LVERs) and Disabled Veterans Outreach Person (DVOPs) are located statewide in various employment offices of the Utah Department of Workforce Services (DWS). They provide intensive

employment-related services for targeted Veterans: referral to job opportunities, resume writing, referral letters, Veterans preference, employment counseling, etc. Following is a list of DWS sites with Veteran Representatives and their phone numbers:

Clearfield Employment Center

1290 East 1450 South Clearfield, UT 84015 (801) 776-7862 (801) 776-7810

Lehi Employment Center

557 West State Street Lehi, UT 84043 (801) 616-0547

Logan Employment Center

180 North 100 West Logan, UT 84321 (435) 792-0338

Metro Employment Center

720 South 200 East Salt Lake City, UT 84111 (801) 536-7051

Midvale Employment Center

7292 South State Street Midvale, UT 84047 (801) 567-3976

Moab, Price, and Blanding Employment Centers

457 Kane Creek Drive Moab, UT 84532 Moab (435) 719-2621, Price (435) 636-2310

Ogden Employment Center

480 27th Street Ogden, UT 84401 (801) 626-0372 (801) 626-0338

Provo Employment Center

1550 Freedom Boulevard Provo, UT 84604 (801) 400-9915

Richfield Employment Center

115 East 100 South Richfield, UT 84701 (435) 893-0009

South County Employment Center

5735 South Redwood Road Taylorsville, UT 84123 (801) 269-4837

Spanish Fork Employment Center

1185 North Chapel Drive Spanish Fork, UT 84660 (801) 367-8432

St. George / Cedar City Employment Center

162 North 400 East, Building B St. George, UT 84770 (435) 986-3575

Vernal Employment Center

1050 West Market Drive Vernal, UT 84078 (435) 781-4124

Tooele Employment Center

305 North Main St., Suite 100 Tooele, UT 84074 (435) 833-7384

ACCELERATED CREDENTIALING TO EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

ACE Specialist — North

(801) 452-5306

ACE Specialist — Central

(801) 386-1220

(801) 726-4912

ACE Specialist — South

(435) 421-4337

MILITARY LEAVE

Utah state, county, or other municipal government employees, who are members of the organized reserve / National Guard, are allowed full pay * for 15 days of military leave per year for annual military encampment. Military leave is in addition to and

distinguished from annual accrued vacation leave with pay. (Uniformed Services Employment & Reemployment Rights Act; Utah Code 39-3-2)

* Some exceptions apply; see your local Human Resources Representatives for details.

BUS / TRAX REDUCED FARE CARDS

Greatly discounted fares (65% reduced) to ride Utah Transit Authority (UTA) busses and TRAX light rail system are available for Veterans meeting one of the following criteria:

- **1.** Veterans and others with transportation disabilities that cause either difficulty boarding or getting off a bus / light rail system or:
 - Have difficulty standing in a moving bus / light rail system
 - Difficulty reading bus / light rail system schedules and understanding signs
 - Difficulty hearing announcements by bus/light rail system, or bus/light rail systems operators.

Transportation Disability Definition

Persons with disabilities are defined by the Federal Transit Administration as persons "who by reason of illness, injury, age, congenital malfunction, or other incapacity - temporary or permanent disability (including any individual who is a wheelchair user or has semi-ambulatory capabilities), cannot use effectively, without special facilities, planning, or design, mass transportation service or a mass transportation facility."

2. Elderly persons 65 and older qualify for Senior Passes at the same price as Reduced Fare Cards

To obtain UTA Reduced Fare do the following: (1) Go to either UTA location at 511 W. 200 S. or 3600 S. 700 W. in Salt Lake City (2) Complete a UTA Reduced Fare Card application form (which also can be downloaded from):

www.rideuta.com/uploads/

UTAReducedFareApplication10 28 2013.pdf)

(3) Have your healthcare provider (physician, optometrist, audiologist, psychologist, psychiatrist, physician's assistant (PA), advanced practice registered nurse (APRN), nurse practitioner (NP), or licensed clinical social worker (LCSW) sign it (no photocopies or electronic submissions will be accepted) and (4) Pay \$2.00 for UTA photo identification to incorporate on the UTA Fare Card.

FISHING LICENSE PRIVILEGE

The State of Utah offers a discounted fishing license for Disabled Utah Veterans with a minimum service connected disability rating of 20%. To file, a Veteran must submit a disability rating letter from the VA Showing the disability rating to any Utah Division of Wildlife Office. Call: (801) 538-4700 for more information. (Utah Code 23-19-38.3)

FREE USE OF ARMORIES

Any federally-chartered Veterans organization has the right to the free use of armories owned or leased by the state; provided that the use does not interfere with the use of the armories by the National Guard or organized state militia. (Utah Code 71-3-1)

HOMELESS VETERANS FELLOWSHIP

The Homeless Veterans Fellowship provides transitional housing for up to 18 months for Veterans. They can also provide emergency food bags and personal hygiene items. Coffee and donuts are provided during open hours. The Homeless Veterans Fellowship address is:

Homeless Veterans Fellowship 541 23rd Street Ogden, UT 84401 Phone: (801) 392-7662

FEDERAL / NATIONAL BENEFITS

VETERANS REEMPLOYMENT RIGHTS

Veterans and members of the National Guard and Reserves may be eligible for reemployment with their civilian employers if they meet certain under the Uniformed Services requirements Employment & Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA). USERRA also provides protection against discrimination in employment because of service in the uniformed services. **Inquiries** regarding reemployment rights should be directed to Department of Labor, Employment & Training Services, which can be contacted at (801) 524-5703. (US Code Title 38, Chap. 43)

AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL PASS

This is a lifetime entrance pass to most national parks, monuments, historic sites, recreation areas, and national wildlife refuges. The Pass admits the holder and any accompanying passengers in a Where entry is not by private private vehicle. vehicle, the Pass admits the holder, spouse, and children. The Pass may also provide a 50% discount on federal use fees charged for facilities and services such as camping, swimming, parking, launching, and cave tours. It does not cover or reduce special recreation permit fees or fees charged by concessionaires. Obtain a Pass in person at any federal area where an entrance fee is charged or at one of the agencies administering the Pass. It is available to citizens or permanent residents of the United States who are medically determined to be blind or permanently disabled. Veterans may obtain a Pass by showing proof of a medically determined permanent disability or eligibility for receiving benefits under federal law. A letter from the VA stating the disability rating will suffice. Agencies administering the Pass are Bureau of Land Management, Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Reclamation, Army Corps of Engineers, National Park Service, and Forest Service.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

The U.S. Department of Labor offers assistance to Veterans through their Veterans Employment and Training Services (VETS). This program serves Veterans and separating service members by preparing them for meaningful careers, providing employment resources and expertise, and protecting their employment rights. The address for is:

U.S. Department of Labor Veterans Employment and Training Service 140 East 300 South, Suite 209 Salt Lake City, Utah 84111-2333 Phone: (801) 524-5703

VA SALT LAKE CITY HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

The VA Salt Lake City Health Care System consists of several components that provide quality healthcare to Veterans throughout its assigned region. These components are:

- The George E. Wahlen Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center (VA Hospital)
- Community Based Outpatient Clinics (10)
- Vet Centers (3)

It is recommended that you contact the VA Hospital in Salt Lake City to determine which facility is closest to you.

VA Hospital

The George E. Wahlen Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center is a mid-sized, affiliated, tertiary care facility with 121 authorized active beds. It is a teaching facility, providing a full range of care services. with state-of-the-art patient technology as well as education and research. Comprehensive health care is provided through primary care, tertiary care, and long-term care in areas of medicine, surgery, psychiatry, physical medicine and rehabilitation, neurology, oncology, dentistry, and geriatrics. The George E. Wahlen Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center is located at:

500 Foothill Drive Salt Lake City, UT 84113 Local Phone: (801) 582-1565 Toll-Free: (800) 613-4012

Website: http://www.saltlakecity.va.gov

Community Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOCs)

There are ten (10) community based outpatient clinics in the VA Salt Lake City Healthcare System. Clinics in the VA system provide primary care services to Veterans in outlying rural communities and in areas where Veteran populations are concentrated. Following is the locations of the CBOCs:

Ogden

982 Chambers Street South Ogden, UT 84403 Phone: (801) 479-4105

Roosevelt

245 West 200 North Roosevelt, UT 84066 Phone: (435) 725-1050

Orem

1443 West 800 North, Suite 302 Orem, UT 84057 Phone: (801) 235-0953

Price

189 South 600 West, Suite B Price, UT 84501 Phone: (435) 613-0342

St. George

230 North 1680 East, Bldg. N St. George, UT 84770 Phone: (435) 634-7608

West Valley City

2750 South 5600 West West Valley City, UT 84120 Phone: (801) 417-5734

Idaho Falls

3544 East 17th Street Suite 104 Ammon, ID 83406 Phone: (208) 522-2922

Pocatello

444 Hospital Way, Suite 801 Pocatello, ID 83201 Phone: (208) 232-6214

Elko

2719 Argent Avenue #9 Elko, NV 89801 Phone: (775) 738-0188

Ely

6 Steptoe Circle Ely, NV 89301

Phone: (775) 289-2788 ext. 105

Vet Centers

The goal of the Vet Centers is to provide a broad range of counseling, outreach, and referral services to eligible Veterans to help them make a satisfying post-war readjustment to civilian life. The family members of Veterans are eligible for Vet Center services as well. Vet Centers furnish bereavement counseling services to surviving parents, spouses, children, and siblings of service members who die of any cause while on active duty, to include federally activated Reserve and National Guard personnel.

Salt Lake Vet Center

22 West Fireclay Ave Murray, UT 84107 Phone: (801) 266-1499 Toll-Free: (877) 927-8387

Fax: (801) 266-2577

Provo Vet Center

1807 North 1120 West Provo, UT 84604 Phone: (801) 377-1117 Toll-Free: (877) 927-8387

Fax: (801) 377-0227

St. George Vet Center

1664 S Dixie Dr. Suite C-102 St. George, UT 84770-4494 Phone: (435) 673-4494 Toll-Free: (877) 927-8387

Valor House

Located on the campus of the VA Hospital in Salt Lake City, the Valor House provides transitional housing to homeless Veterans for up to two years. There are a total of 60 beds available. For more information regarding this program, please contact Rich Landward at (801) 582-1565 ext. 2703 or (800) 613-4012 ext. 2703.

VA REGIONAL (BENEFITS) OFFICE

The Veterans Administration Regional Office (VARO) is responsible for the administration of Veterans benefits for the entire state of Utah, as well as Montana and Alaska through remote management of the Anchorage and Fort Harrison Offices. These benefits include compensation, vocational rehabilitation, and employment. The VARO is located at:

VA Regional Office (VARO)

550 Foothill Drive, Suite 200 Salt Lake City, UT 84113-1106

Phone: (800) 827-1000 Fax: (801) 326-2491

NATIONAL VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

In Utah there are four (4) Veterans Service Organizations that offer assistance with processing claims for benefits. These organizations offer these services at *no charge* to Veterans.

American Legion

550 Foothill Drive Suite 105Salt Lake City, UT 84113(801) 326-2380

Disabled American Veterans

550 Foothill Drive Suite 105 Salt Lake City, UT 84113 (801) 326-2375

Military Order of the Purple Heart

550 Foothill Drive Suite 105
Salt Lake City, UT 84113
(801) 326-2471
Veterans of Foreign Wars
550 Foothill Drive Suite 105
Salt Lake City, UT 84113
(801) 326-2385

EMPLOYER SUPPORT OF THE GUARD AND RESERVE

The Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) is a Department of Defense organization that develops and promotes employer support for Guard and Reserve service by advocating relevant initiatives, recognizing outstanding support, increasing awareness of applicable laws, and resolving conflict between employers and service ESGR informs and educates service members. members and their civilian employers regarding their rights and responsibilities governed by the Uniformed Services **Employment** and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994 (USERRA).

Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve

12953 South Minuteman Drive

Draper, UT 84020

Phone: (801) 432-4492

(801) 432-4536 (801) 245-2610

Website: www.ut.ngb.army.mil/esgr/